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021 332 940

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# Newsletter

## Number 6 1 April 2016



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

### Thanks

... to those amazing parents who supported last week's year 5 and 6 camp. Staff have been waxing eloquently on your teamwork and dedication to duty. Your efforts have been very much appreciated.

.. to those who supported our Yr 4 students at the Summer Sports Tournament.

### Well done

... to our year 5 and 6 campers for achieving your camp goals and for pushing out a few boundaries.

... Lily P who waited with a toddler roaming the carpark recently until her mother returned. Well done Lily.

... Caitlin & Alex H who both got wins & placings in the recent North Island Show Hunter champs, against mostly 17year olds, well done girls!

... Emily D who achieved a top ten placing for Under 12yr old Girls, in the recent NZ BMX championship in Auckland. A huge achievement Emily. Well done! (see Emily in action below)



### Term Calendar ... More to follow as dates come to hand!

5 April	Mighty Maui Puppet Show
8 April	Year 7 and 8 Adventure Forest visit
12 April	April meeting of the BoT
14 April	Snow White Show
15 April	Poppy Day
15 April	Final day for term 1

### International student enquiries

Thank you to those parents who indicated that they would be willing to host our visiting family from China. We have forwarded your details and you may well hear from this family shortly. With your consent we will keep your details for any future enquiries (or please let Kevin know if you would prefer not to be considered for any future placement).

### Upcoming Board Election Some critical dates ....

6 May	Call for nominations
20 May	Nominations close
25 May	Voting papers issued
3 June	Election date
9 June	Votes counted
10 June	New board takes office

(Mrs Dorahy has been appointed returning officer for this election. Please ensure that you advise her of any change of address if you did not do so via the blue forms sent home earlier this term).

### **School Gates**

We do have small number of children who have the potential to wander. If you enter or exit the school between 9:00 and 3:00 please ensure the school gates are closed behind you.

### **Borrowed Matarau T-shirts**

A number of students have "borrowed" school T-shirts since last year, and they haven't been returned to the office. Please return these shirts asap to school next week (washed) so that we can make these available to other students. New quick dry polo shirts can be bought at the office for \$30.

### **Year 7 and 8 Adventure Forest Visit**

Parents of year 7 and 8 students are asked to return any outstanding consents by Monday please. Thank you to those assisting on the day. Please ensure children bring raincoats, lunch, drink bottles, and gear (including footwear) suitable for rope work. Any questions in the run up to Mrs Donaldson please.

### **International Schools English and Maths Competitions**

We will process registrations on Monday and **can take any late entries if these are in by mid-day this coming Monday (4<sup>th</sup> April)**. A reminder that the English Exam is scheduled for 2 August and the Maths Exam for 16 August.

### **Poppies**

Will be on sale at school from the week beginning 11 April (final week of term 1).

### **ANZAC Commemorations - 25<sup>th</sup> April**

Matarau School will again be represented by our School Councillors at the ANZAC Dawn Service (25 April). Any other students are more than welcome to join our Councillors and march in the parade to the service. A letter will be sent home with full details next week to those children who indicate they are interested. Pupils wishing to be part of the schools contingent should form up in Alexander St - opposite the RSA at 5.40am on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Any queries in the meantime to Katie Donaldson please.

### **Something that may be of interest from World Vision**

**A Night of Hope is coming to Northland in April, and we'd love you to come along!** A Night of Hope is a FREE event for all ages brought to you by World Vision and churches in the North Island. Hyromi Samuel Keita, a former sponsored child, is travelling all the way from the West African country of Mali to share the inspirational story of how his life was transformed when he was sponsored through World Vision. The night will also include live music from a talented Kiwi artist, Raylee Bradfield, who is part of the Worship Central collective, and has trained hundreds of vocalists during years of tutoring at Excel School of Performing Arts.

As a number of our students support World Visions 40 Hour Famine, we thought that some of them might be interested in this event. To be held 7:00pm 11 April in the Salvation Army Hall at 7 Aubrey Street, and at 7:00pm 14 April at the Anglican Church 2b Kamo Road. If your child is interested in attending, and you are unable to transport them, please contact Mrs Comrie here at school and she may be able to help out. First in, first served.

### **Safety**

Parents bringing toddlers to school are asked to please keep them with them at all times ... especially near the road or in and around the carpark. Recent experience reminds us that it is not generally safe to leave small children unattended in your car.

### **Pool Keys**

As the Matarau swimming season is now over we would like to request the return of pool keys by the end of next week please. Thank you to those people who hired keys this year.

### **IT - appropriate use of devices**

Parents will recall countersigning our digital technology "Respect and Protect" Responsible Use Policy. We all have a responsibility to support children to become responsible digital citizens, accordingly, we will be reminding children next week that devices are not to be used before or after school (until they arrive home) or during breaks (without the express consent of a staff member). We know from your feedback that you want this too. Children who use their devices during these times will forfeit their device for a day

(additional days if multiple breaches) and pick it up the next day. Parents are always welcome to pick up confiscated devices, but we hope you will help us to drive the message home. We are excited at what we are seeing as a result of improved access to devices, and look forward to sharing this with you down the track. We remain hugely grateful that so many people have got on board.

### **School activity fee**

From time to time we get questions about the school activity fee of \$40. This fee covers the cost of those incidental non-core expenses which arise over the course of the year. Levying this fee at the beginning of the year saves parents time searching for small change (again and again), and it saves valuable processing time for our busy office staff (imagine receiving and receipting \$4 - \$6 amounts from each child 8 times a year ... this would equate to around 2,400 different, very small transactions). This frees our office staff for more important things, including being more available to parents. \$40 is the approximate annual cost (averaged out) for entry fees for visiting drama groups, bus fares to special events and sports days, and other similar activities (excluding outdoor education and camps). Depending on the number of children attending, the entry fee to a visiting drama is around \$5 per child (we generally have one of these each term), the cost of a return bus trip to town is around the same (we average these about once a term also). If the \$40 runs out by the end of the term we "top it up". On occasion, a student's expenses will fall short of the \$40, where this happens they are treated to something special at the end of the year. Parents may request a refund of any of the unused \$40 at year's end, but these sums are usually very small. The events concerned are not compulsory, and parents may opt not to pay the activity fee, and to have alternative arrangements made for their child on the day in question.

The activity fee will cover the cost of next week's Mighty Maui Puppet Show and the Snow White Show the following week.

### **Reminders from last week**

.. please do not park near the entrance to the upper carpark

... we are currently as "on top" of the headlice situation as it is possible to be .. parents are asked to check their children's hair weekly and to react promptly in the event of infestation.

... year 7 and 8 children can be registered for after school study time (Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) at no cost to parents. Must be picked up at 4:00 PM please. Registrations to Mrs Donaldson on [kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz](mailto:kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz)

.. Needing help with your child's digital device? Mr D is happy to answer any questions. He is at school Tuesdays and Fridays (Tuesday best day if dropping by) or he can be contacted via our school email.

### **Finally**

With the pending board election this seems an appropriate time to acknowledge the work of boards past and present. Many of the programmes and facilities we currently enjoy are the result of the careful commitment and planning of past boards. School boards do have real opportunities to add value. Board members are sometimes required to grapple with complex issues, they weigh priorities, help mould direction, and contribute to a sense of purpose and teamwork. So ... thank you to board members past and present for your commitment. The school has been well served by your efforts.

Regards ... *nga mihi*

Kevin Trehwella

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## Community Notices

**Irish Dancing Lessons** – Matarau School Hall, Wednesdays 4-5pm weekly. \$10 per lesson, first lesson free.  
Contact Teresa Walker - 021 165 9360

**Tikipunga Football Club** – Midgets (4-8yr olds) & Juniors (9-17yr olds), Thursdays at 5pm. Contact [Melworth21@gmail.com](mailto:Melworth21@gmail.com) or 021 0644 033 for more info.

Hurupaki Educare April School Holiday programme – contact Christin on 0274821331 or email [info@schoolholidayprogrammes.co.nz](mailto:info@schoolholidayprogrammes.co.nz) for details. A flyer is available at the school office or on the display board outside the hall.

## Remembering Camp

*One wet Autumn day...*

*My legs remember racing across the slippery, mushy, wet grass.*

*My hands remember reaching out for my delicious hot coco.*

*My mouth remembers the taste of the scrumptious spaghetti bolognaise.*

*My teeth remember munching into the delicious food.*

*My ears remember hearing the screeching wekas.*

*My mind remembers that I will be back at another camp soon.*

**By Asher O**

*On boring school days...*

*My feet remember climbing up the pointed bow ropes aboard the huge R Tucker Thompson.*

*My legs remember dashing through the scary muddy Burma trail in the dark of night.*

*My body remembers lying on my spongy blue mattress on the cold ground.*

*My arms remember digging a hole in the soil to plant a tree that will be growing for a lifetime.*

*My hands remember reaching for the delicious home baking at morning tea time.*

*My mind remembers that this camp was one to remember for ever.*

**By Caitlin H**

*One cold school morning, frost coming up off the green leafy grass...*

*My feet remember icy cold water hitting them with what felt like a 10 foot wave.*

*My hands remember getting rope burns from the terrifying night time burma trail.*

*My eyes remember seeing the shore line crashing against the grainy sand.*

*My face remembers the gleaming hot sun reflecting off the crystal clear water.*

*My mind remembers that camp will happen for me again soon.*

**By Brooke H**